

**Security Council**

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**Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014),
2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015)****Report of the Secretary-General****I. Introduction**

1. The present report is the thirty-third submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), paragraph 10 of Council resolution 2165 (2014), paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2191 (2014) and paragraph 5 of Council resolution 2258 (2015), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The information contained herein is based on the data available to United Nations agencies on the ground, from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, other Syrian sources and open sources. Data from United Nations agencies on their humanitarian deliveries have been reported for the period from 1 to 31 October 2016.

Box 1**Key points in October 2016**

(1) A unilateral pause in the aerial bombardment of eastern Aleppo has been largely in place since 18 October, providing a welcome respite to residents. The United Nations, together with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and Syrian non-governmental organizations, continues to work to urgently provide humanitarian and medical assistance, including evacuating the critically injured and sick from eastern Aleppo.

(2) In October, seven inter-agency convoys delivered assistance to 285,500 people in besieged and hard-to-reach locations, of a total of 962,000 people (29.6 per cent) requested under the inter-agency convoy plan.

(3) Following a comprehensive review by the United Nations, it was estimated that, as at 1 November, some 974,080 people were living in areas under siege, up from 861,200 in the previous report (S/2016/873).



(4) The United Nations and health partners received credible reports of 25 attacks against medical facilities and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) verified three attacks against educational facilities in October.

(5) The sick and injured living in Fu'ah, Kafraya, Madaya and Zabadani continue to require urgent medical evacuations and assistance, but, owing to disagreement among the parties to the Four Towns agreement, these have been further restricted. This resulted in the death of a 13-year-old boy in Madaya on 29 October.

II. Major developments

3. Throughout October, military operations continued to kill and injure civilians, destroy civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools and damage the livelihoods of millions. Attacks against educational facilities were particularly notable, killing and maiming scores of children. Insecurity remained a major factor limiting the ability of United Nations agencies and their partners to deliver much-needed humanitarian assistance. Heavy fighting continued nationwide, including in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hama, Idlib and Rif Dimashq governorates.

4. Eastern Aleppo, where some 275,000 people have been trapped since July, remained a particular focus of aid efforts. Following the announcement of a halt in all Russian and Syrian air strikes on Aleppo on 18 October, the United Nations, together with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and Syrian non-governmental organizations, was ready to urgently evacuate the critically injured and sick, together with their family members, from eastern Aleppo to locations of their choosing, as well as to provide much-needed assistance. Humanitarian teams engaged in intense negotiations with all sides in an effort to undertake the evacuations before the pause ended on 23 October. Those efforts notwithstanding, the evacuations did not take place and were obstructed by a number of factors, including delays in receiving the list of patients to be medically evacuated from the local authorities in eastern Aleppo, conditions stipulated by non-State armed opposition groups and the Government's objection to allowing medical and other relief supplies into the eastern side of the city. Despite the Russian-declared end of the pause on 23 October and initial reports of air strikes, the only further air strikes on eastern Aleppo reported during the month occurred on 31 October (see table 1 for information on reported attacks against civilians in October). Efforts to secure medical evacuations out of and deliver assistance into eastern Aleppo are continuing.

5. On 28 October, non-State armed opposition groups announced a new campaign to break the siege of eastern Aleppo and continued their heavy shelling of western Aleppo. On 30 October, the building housing United Nations offices and staff in western Aleppo was damaged by a shell.

6. Efforts were also undertaken to prepare for fresh displacement following the launch of operations to combat Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Mosul, Iraq, on 17 October. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees expanded space and prepared for the provision of necessary services in the Hawl camp, Hasakah governorate, near the Iraqi border, for some 15,000 refugees

and is planning further expansion to meet the basic needs of a total of 50,000 refugees. There are currently 4,600 refugees living at the site, in addition to some 3,500 internally displaced persons. UNICEF is also providing additional support. To date, however, there have been no reports of significant new cross-border movements.

7. Following a period of reported clashes and heavy shelling and bombing, on 1 and 8 October, government representatives and a negotiating committee representing non-State armed opposition groups reached local agreements with regard to Qadsayya and Hamah, Rif Dimashq governorate, respectively. Subsequently, on 13 October, some 1,400 individuals from non-State armed opposition groups from both towns were evacuated to Idlib governorate along with their family members. On 19 October, as part of a local agreement with regard to Mu'addamiyah, Rif Dimashq governorate, some 1,800 non-State armed opposition fighters and opposition-affiliated local council members were evacuated to Idlib governorate along with their family members.

8. Disagreements over the implementation of a local agreement with regard to Wa'r, Homs governorate, in relation to the release of detainees resulted in the routes into and out of the town being closed on 18 and 22 October, respectively, with an impact on the movement of goods and people. While movements have since resumed, negotiations are continuing on a number of issues, including the release of detainees, final destination points for evacuees and humanitarian access. There are also disagreements over the implementation of the local agreement of 24 August with regard to Darayya, Rif Dimashq governorate, which included the evacuation of the entire town, in relation to the agreed release of detainees.

Box 2

Medical evacuations from Fu'ah, Kafraya, Madaya and Zabadani

(1) In September 2015, the Army of Conquest and the Islamic Republic of Iran signed the so-called Four Towns ceasefire agreement covering Fu'ah and Kafraya in Idlib governorate and Madaya and Zabadani in Rif Damashq governorate. The delivery of assistance to the four besieged towns and medical evacuations have since been tied to reciprocal arrangements. There are some 20,000 people besieged by non-State armed opposition groups in Fu'ah and Kafraya and 43,700 people besieged by the Government and its allies in Madaya and Zabadani.

(2) While requests to the Government to provide assistance to the four towns are regularly approved, deliveries have been hampered by the existence of the agreement, the nature of which means that both signatories must agree to exactly what is provided to which town or who can be medically evacuated. The situation has been further complicated by a disagreement relating to schoolchildren who were allowed to leave Madaya outside the conditions set out in the agreement but who did not return.

(3) The most recent medical evacuations were facilitated by the Office of my Special Envoy for Syria and implemented by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on 6 October: eight people were evacuated from Fu'ah and Madaya. Numerous urgent medical evacuations are required, but, as indicated above, the nature of the agreement delays and often restricts such movement. A disagreement among the parties is currently delaying all medical evacuations, although the parties have a list of people to be urgently evacuated. Most of those in Madaya are suffering from kidney-related issues, given that there are no dialysis machines in service or qualified doctors to operate them. The inability to evacuate medical cases has resulted in unnecessary deaths, including, on 29 October in Madaya, that of a 13-year-old boy who was unable to acquire clearance to leave to receive treatment for a traumatic head injury.

(4) There are significant concerns regarding the lack of food and medicine, with only one United Nations inter-agency convoy reaching the four towns in the past six months (on 25 September). On 28 October, the local medical commission in Madaya announced the suspension of its work owing to a shortage of qualified staff, medicines and medical equipment.

(5) The United Nations continues to call for assistance to be sustained and based solely on need and to stress that it should never be politicized.

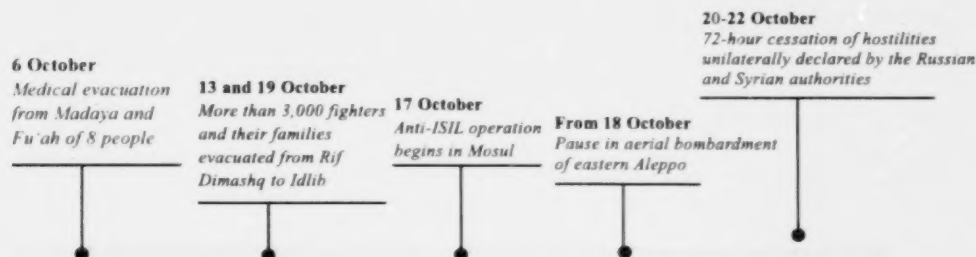
9. In October, the situation worsened in the Khan al-Shih Palestine refugee camp, south of Damascus in Rif Dimashq governorate. Tightened security around the area, to which access has been highly restricted, has severely curtailed the ability of residents to move safely and have ready access to humanitarian aid and medical support. Residents face grave risks when seeking to leave. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East estimates that some 8,000 Palestine refugees currently reside in the besieged area. Four Palestine refugees were killed on the night of 18 October as they sought to leave the camp.

10. In the context of the breakdown of the agreement of 9 September and the failure of diplomatic efforts to revive it, the United States of America announced on 3 October its decision to suspend participation in the bilateral channels established with the Russian Federation to sustain a cessation of hostilities. On 6 October, my Special Envoy offered a new proposal, separate from the United Nations plan for medical evacuations and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, to bring about an end to fighting in Aleppo and urged those with the ability to provide guarantees and assurances to engage with regard to the initiative. The initiative had five key parameters: the bombing and fighting by all must stop, all over Aleppo; Nusrah Front fighters should leave the city with their weapons, whereas other armed opposition groups could stay unless they also wanted to leave; the siege should be lifted; the local administration should remain intact temporarily until political negotiations resumed; and the foregoing should be the subject of guarantees and assurances from States with operational influence. On 15 October, in Lausanne, Switzerland, dialogue involving the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Nations and regional actors focused on ways to address the situation in Aleppo, institute a nationwide truce and resume talks on a political settlement to the conflict. This led to the holding of technical follow-up meetings that are yet to

result in specific announcements, but continue to be held nonetheless. As these efforts have continued, my Special Envoy has remained engaged with a wide range of actors on the prospects for resuming a genuine political process.

Figure 1

Key dates in October 2016



Protection issues

11. The protection of civilians has been consistently identified as a significant area of concern in all governorates, with some 13.5 million people in need of protection assistance. The United Nations has documented reports of grave child rights violations, including killing and maiming, attacks on schools and hospitals, sexual violence, abduction and recruitment and use of children, especially in Aleppo, Hasakah and Rif Dimashq governorates. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially against medical personnel and facilities and against schools, continued to be reported in October (see paras. 14-16). Threats from explosive ordnance and against women and the most vulnerable civilians, such as children, older persons or persons with disabilities, as well as other human rights abuses, were also reported.

12. On the basis of information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the killing of civilians and other abuses and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law continued throughout the reporting period. Much of the violence occurred in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Idlib and Rif Dimashq governorates (see table 1). OHCHR documented attacks by all parties to the conflict, including government forces, non-State armed opposition groups and designated terrorist groups. On 17 October, the Syrian authorities sent a note verbale to OHCHR providing information on an alleged air strike on Thalhnanah, Aleppo governorate, that reportedly killed 20 civilians, including 3 children, and injured another 40. On 31 October, the Russian Federation sent a note verbale to OHCHR providing information about an air strike on 18 October in Hassajik, Aleppo governorate, that allegedly killed six civilians. On 1 November, the Syrian authorities sent a note verbale to OHCHR providing information on an alleged attack with chlorine gas in the 1070 and Hamdaniyah neighbourhoods of western Aleppo. OHCHR was unable to independently verify any of the attacks. On 20 October, ISIL reportedly shot dead four civilians in Dhiban, Dayr al-Zawr governorate, accusing them of cooperating with the Syrian Democratic Forces.

Table 1
Reported attacks against civilians, October 2016^a

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type of attack</i>	<i>Number of people killed, including women and children</i>	<i>Number of people injured</i>	<i>Infrastructure or site type</i>
<i>Aleppo governorate</i>					
5 October	Anadan	Air strike	At least 4 children	—	Residential
6 October	Manbij	Improvised explosive device	4 children	—	Street
7 October	Midan, Halab al-Jadidah and Muhafazah (western Aleppo)	Ground strike	10	30	Residential
10 October	Hamdaniyah (western Aleppo)	Ground strike	4	14	Residential
10 October	Shi'ar (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	At least 5	—	Residential
11 October	Mashi	Suicide bomber	At least 11	—	Market
11 October	Bustan al-Qasr (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	At least 34, including 6 women and 3 children	"Dozens"	Residential
11 October	Firdaws (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	16	—	Residential
12 October	Firdaws (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	At least 10	—	Market
13 October	Midan (western Aleppo)	Ground strike	2 children	—	Residential
16 October	Qatirji, Shaykh Faris, Sukkari and Mashhad (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	At least 74	At least 79, including 12 women and 11 children	Various
17 October	Marjah (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	14, including 10 children	—	—
22 October	Mashhad and Sukkari (eastern Aleppo)	Ground strike	Multiple	—	Residential
23 October	Marjah (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	4, including 1 child	—	—
24 October	Salah al-Din (western Aleppo)	Ground strike	1	15	Residential

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type of attack</i>	<i>Number of people killed (including women and children)</i>	<i>Number of people injured</i>	<i>Infrastructure or site type</i>
25 and 26 October	Urum al-Kubra	Air strike	4	—	—
26 October	Masakin Hannanu (eastern Aleppo)	Ground strike	1 woman and 1 child	—	—
26 October	Barzah	Ground strike	3	2	Residential
27 October	Mazzah	Ground strike	—	2	Educational
27 October	Western Aleppo	Ground strike	6, including 3 children	14 children	School and residential
28 October	Urum al-Kubra	Air strike	1 child	—	Residential
29 and 30 October	Eastern Aleppo	Ground strike	12, including 2 children	—	—
29 and 30 October	Salah al-Din, Shahba', Zahra' and Hamdaniyah (western Aleppo)	Ground strike	More than 30, including at least 10 children	"Dozens"	—
31 October	Shaykh Ali (eastern Aleppo)	Air strike	2	2	—
31 October	Hamdaniyah and Halab al-Jadidah	Ground strike	3, including 1 woman	5	Residential
<i>Damascus governorate</i>					
5 October	Sham al-Amal	Ground strike	—	6, including 1 child	Hospital
5 October	Hamah	Air strike	2	"Numerous"	Hospital
12 October	Jawbar	Air strike	2	—	Residential
<i>Dar'a governorate</i>					
7 October	Tafas	Ground strike	1	—	Residential
11 October	Dar'a (government- controlled)	Ground strike	6 children	17	School
<i>Dayr al-Zawr governorate</i>					
11 October	Albu Kamal	Air strike	6	—	Residential/ ambulance
16 October	Abu al-Layl	Gunshot	1 child	—	—
18 October	Sabhah	Air strike	3	"Multiple"	Residential

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type of attack</i>	<i>Number of people killed, including women and children</i>	<i>Number of people injured</i>	<i>Infrastructure or site type</i>
<i>Hama governorate</i>					
1 October	Kafr Zayta	Bomb (allegedly toxic)	–	20	Agricultural
16 October	Lataminah	Air strike	5, including 2 women and 2 children	10	Medical clinic
<i>Hasakah governorate</i>					
3 October	Hasakah	Suicide bomber	23, including 9 children	60, including 16 children	Wedding hall
12 October	Tall al-Jayir	Air strike	2, including 1 child	–	School
<i>Homs governorate</i>					
10 October	Talbisah	Air strike	2	6	Residential
<i>Idlib governorate</i>					
18 October	Ariha	Air strike	5	–	Medical
21 October	Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	Air strike	1	5	Civil defence centre
21 October	Jisr al-Shughur	Air strike	7, including 5 children	–	Residential
24 October	Kafr Uwayd	Air strike	4, including 1 child	–	Residential
24 October	Khan Shaykhun	Air strike	6, including 1 child	"Dozens"	Residential
24 October	Jisr al-Shughur	Air strike	–	2	Residential
24 October	Kafr Takharim	Air strike	At least 6	"Dozens"	Residential
26 October	Khan Shaykhun, Kaft Takharim and Ma'arrat al-Nu'man	Air strike	At least 6	"Dozens"	Residential
26 October	Has	Air strike	26, including 3 women and 20 children	At least 30, including 10 children	School
<i>Raqqa governorate</i>					
14 October	Ghazali	Air strike	15, including 5 women and 2 children	–	Residential

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type of attack</i>	<i>Number of people killed, including women and children</i>	<i>Number of people injured</i>	<i>Infrastructure or site type</i>
16 October	Suqayf	Air strike	11, including 7 women and 3 children	—	Residential
<i>Rif Dimashq governorate</i>					
1 October	Zakiyah	Ground strike	1 woman and 1 child	At least 7	Residential
1 October	Muqaylibah	Ground strike	6	At least 5	Residential
2 October	Duma	Ground strike	4, including 1 woman and 2 children	—	Residential
2 October	Irbin	Ground strike	2, including 1 woman	At least 2	Residential
2 October	Khan al-Shih	Air strike	2	At least 3	Residential
3 October	Duma	Ground strike	1	At least 8, including 4 children	Residential
5 October	Duma	Air strikes	7, including 1 woman and 1 child	At least 3	Residential
5 October	Khan al-Shih	Ground strike	2	"Multiple"	Residential
12 October	Duma	Air strikes	2, including 1 child	At least 11	Residential
12 October	Irbin	Air strikes	3	1	Residential
18 October	Between Khan al-Shih and Zakiyah	Ground strike	At least 5, including 3 women and 1 child	2	Road
20 October	Duma	Ground strike	2 children	1	Residential
24 October	Duma	Ground strike	At least 5, including 1 woman and 1 child	—	Residential
27 October	Duma	Ground strike	8, including 1 child	"Several"	Residential
28 October	Madaya	Gunshot	1 child	—	Residential
29 October	Buqayn	Gunshot	—	1	Medical
29 October	Madaya	Gunshot	1 child	—	Residential

Source: OHCHR.

^a In line with resolution 2258 (2015), the present description of developments on the ground relates to the compliance with resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) by all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic. The information is provided without prejudice to the work of the Task Force on the Ceasefire of the International Syria Support Group. The list is not exhaustive.

13. While not providing information for all days of the month, the United States Department of Defense confirmed that, in October, the United States-led coalition had carried out at least 234 strikes against ISIL targets in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Idlib, Hasakah, Homs and Raqqah governorates. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation did not provide detailed information on operations carried out by its armed forces during the month, although it confirmed that military operations were being carried out in support of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

14. Primary, secondary and tertiary health-care services continued to experience severe gaps in performance and service delivery owing to the extensive damage caused to health facilities, the rapid turnover of health staff and the lack of qualified professionals in specialized medical fields. Paediatric and maternal health services, including routine vaccinations, remained negatively affected, especially in Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama and Homs governorates and the besieged areas of Rif Dimashq governorate.

15. In blatant disregard for the protected status of medical facilities under international humanitarian law, as further articulated by the Security Council in its resolution 2286 (2016), such facilities continued to be damaged or destroyed by fighting. The United Nations and health partners received credible reports, some of which are being verified, of 25 attacks against medical facilities in October. In total, 13 of the confirmed attacks were against hospitals (6 in Aleppo governorate, 1 in Idlib governorate, 1 in Hama governorate and 3 in Rif Dimashq governorate) and a primary health-care centre in Kafr Zayta, Hama governorate, was struck twice within 72 hours. Collectively, the attacks resulted in the deaths of at least 15 people, including at least 2 medical personnel, and the wounding of at least 51 people, including 12 medical personnel. All the facilities were reportedly closed and services disrupted.

16. Educational facilities have seen a number of attacks since the beginning of the new academic year on 18 September, with three verified attacks reported by the United Nations during the reporting period. On 11 October, a mortar struck the Zat al-Nitaqayn school in the city of Dar'a, killing five pupils between 4 and 16 years of age and injuring 15 others between 6 and 16 years of age. A male teacher was also killed. On 13 October, a mortar fell near the Hatim Ta'i primary school in the Sulaymaniyah neighbourhood of the government-controlled part of western Aleppo, killing four children between 8 and 9 years of age and injuring three others. On 26 October, the Kamal Qal'aji school complex in the village of Has, Idlib governorate, was severely damaged by multiple air strikes, causing significant casualties, including children. In total, 20 children were killed and many more injured. Three teachers were killed and five injured (all women). Three of the five schools in the complex were destroyed.

17. On 29 October, 247 detainees in the Tartus central prison protested against such practices as being held without charge or in lengthy pretrial detention and being sentenced without being afforded due process rights such as access to a lawyer and the right to appeal. Many of the detainees had been brought before the counter-terrorism court. After the protest began, OHCHR received reports of detainees being denied food and water. Patients requiring medication for treatable illnesses were also reported to be running out of medicine. In addition, concerns were raised about the well-being of the 13 children between 9 and 16 years of age

who were held in the juvenile section, reportedly with insufficient food and electricity. Detainees had previously protested about these same conditions, most recently in March when some 200 detainees held a two-week-long hunger strike to highlight their complaints. While reports indicate that the situation has begun to improve, OHCHR continues to receive reports about the grave conditions in that prison and other government-run detention centres, as well as about ill-treatment and torture of detainees.

Humanitarian access

Box 3

Key points

- (1) In October, seven inter-agency convoys delivered assistance to 285,500 people in besieged and hard-to-reach locations, of a total of 962,000 people (29.6 per cent) requested under the inter-agency convoy plan.
- (2) Following a comprehensive review by the United Nations, it was estimated that, as at 1 November, some 974,080 people were living in areas under siege, up from 861,200 in the previous report.
- (3) In total, 45,346 medical items were removed from inter-agency convoys in October.
- (4) The inter-agency convoy plan for November was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 October. A response was received on 27 October, in line with the agreed review period. In total, 623,000 of the 904,500 requested beneficiaries (69 per cent) were approved, and 281,500 beneficiaries (31 per cent) were rejected or not included in the approved number of beneficiaries.
- (5) During the reporting period, some 2,050,000 beneficiaries were assisted by the United Nations and its partners through cross-border operations from Turkey and Jordan.

18. The delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic remained extremely challenging in many areas as a result of active conflict, shifting conflict lines and deliberate restrictions on the movement of people and goods by the parties to the conflict.

19. Following a comprehensive review by the United Nations, it was estimated that, as at 1 November, some 974,080 people were living in areas under siege, up from 861,200 in the previous report (see table 2). Several new locations have been deemed to meet the criteria (militarily encircled, lack of freedom of movement for civilians, the sick and wounded and lack of humanitarian supplies) and have thus been added to the list, including Jawbar in Damascus governorate, Hajar al-Aswad in Rif Dimashq governorate, Khan al-Shih in Rif Dimashq governorate and multiple locations in the enclave of eastern Ghutah in Rif Dimashq governorate. The besieged communities of eastern Ghutah are grouped into five major areas (Irbin, Duma, Harasta, Kafr Batna and Nashabiyah) for ease of reference. Population figures have also been adjusted for some other locations based on the most recent and most accurate information received from the ground.

Table 2
Besieged locations^a as at 1 November 2016

<i>Governorate</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Besieged by</i>
Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	275 000	Government
Damascus	Yarmuk	9 800	Government and non-State armed groups ^b
Dayr al-Zawr	Dayr al-Zawr (government-held neighbourhoods)	93 500	ISIL
Homs	Wa'r	50 000	Government
Idlib	Fu'ah	12 800	Non-State armed groups
Idlib	Kafraya	7 200	Non-State armed groups
Rif Dimashq	Hajar al-Aswad	4 500	Government and non-State armed groups ^b
Rif Dimashq	Khan al-Shih	12 000	Government
Rif Dimashq/ Damascus	Irbid and surrounding area (Irbid, Zamalka and Jawbar)	53 000	Government
Rif Dimashq	Harasta area (Harasta, Mudayra , Misraba)	45 000	Government
Rif Dimashq	Duma area (Duma, Shafuniyah , Hawsh al-Dawahirah)	172 200	Government
Rif Dimashq	Kafr Batna area (Kafr Batna, Saqba, Ayn Tarma, Hammurah, Jisrayn, Aftaris , Hazzah , Hawsh al-Ash'ari , Bayt Siwa , Muhammadiyah)	132 040	Government
Rif Dimashq	Nashabiyah area (Nashabiyah, Bayt Nayim , Salihiyah , Atiyah , Hazrama)	17,590	Government
Rif Dimashq	Madaya (and Buqayn)	45 700	Government
Rif Dimashq	Zabadani	750	Government
Rif Dimashq	Mu'addamiyah al-Sham	43 000	Government
Total		974 080	

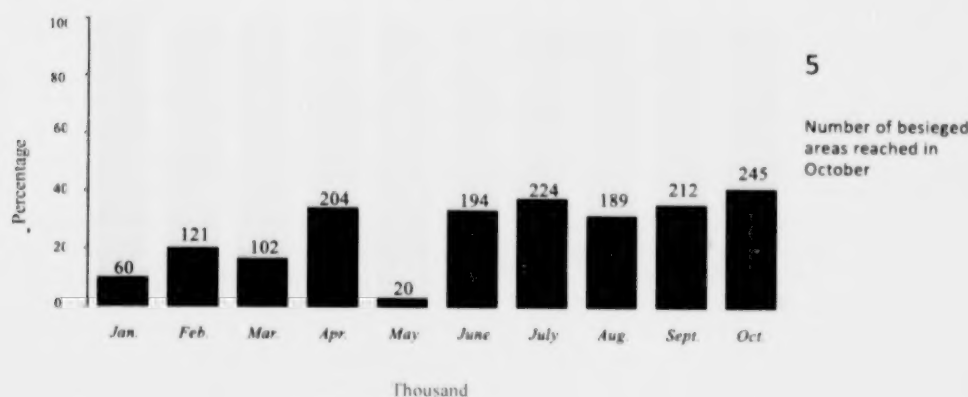
^a Locations in boldface were added on 1 November.

^b Locations besieged by both the Government and non-State armed opposition groups at different access points.

20. Access to the millions of people living in besieged and hard-to-reach locations remains of critical concern. Throughout October, as a result of the late approval of the monthly plan, delays in the issuance of facilitation letters, requirements for additional security approvals above and beyond the two steps agreed upon with the Government in April, a lack of adherence to agreed protocols at checkpoints and insecurity, only seven inter-agency convoys reached a total of 285,500 people in seven besieged and hard-to-reach locations (see table 2). This total constitutes 46 per cent of the 609,450 beneficiaries approved under the plan for October, and about 29 per cent of the total of 962,800 people to whom access had been requested under the plan (see para. 24). In addition, the United Nations provided assistance to some of these areas through single-agency convoys. For example, the World Food Programme (WFP) delivered food assistance for some 547,819 people in 25 hard-to-reach and besieged locations in Aleppo, Dayr al-Zawr, Hasakah, Homs, Idlib and Rif Dimashq governorates. Moreover, non-governmental organizations continued to provide medical, education and protection services, in addition to some support in other sectors, in hard-to-reach locations under extremely challenging circumstances.

Figure II

United Nations inter-agency cross-line operations: number of people reached each month in besieged areas, including via airdrops to the city of Dayr al-Zawr



21. In eastern Aleppo, the Bab al-Nayrab water pumping station has since 9 October been functioning again at full capacity and providing water to 65 per cent of the residents. Nevertheless, the pipes have been severely damaged in the hostilities, leaving the remaining 35 per cent of the population dependent on private vendors or private local water wells connected to storage tanks. These sources are at high risk of contamination and largely unaffordable. Moreover, the Sulayman al-Halabi water pumping station suffered damage in October as a result of the hostilities. It partially resumed operations on 29 October thanks to UNICEF-supported repairs and fuel provision. UNICEF continues to support repairs to the public water network in both eastern and western Aleppo and to truck emergency water into western Aleppo at a rate of 5 million litres per day, benefiting 300,000 people in the most vulnerable neighborhoods, including those in new shelters for

internally displaced persons. United Nations operations are also providing children in 121 schools with access to water.

Table 3

United Nations inter-agency cross-line humanitarian operations, 1 January-31 October 2016^a

 **1 287 750** people reached

		
People reached in hard-to-reach areas	People reached in besieged areas	People reached in priority cross-line areas
817 100	413 650	57 000
17.8%	48%	17 of 18
People reached in hard-to-reach areas	People reached in besieged areas	Besieged locations reached
		
Cross-line convoys	Airlifts	Airdrops
126	146	150

^a Based on the previous number of 861,200 people in 18 besieged locations.

22. Deliberate interference and restrictions by the parties to the conflict continued to hamper aid delivery. For example, WFP continued to be unable to gain access to people in need in ISIL-controlled areas, given that all plans to deliver assistance to those areas have been suspended because of the inability to work independently and monitor activities. This is preventing WFP from reaching most of Dayr al-Zawr and Raqqah governorates, together with pockets of northern rural Aleppo governorate, southern rural Hasakah governorate and north-western rural Hama governorate. The besieged parts of the city of Dayr al-Zawr, inaccessible by land since March 2014, have since 10 April 2016 been reached by WFP through high-altitude airdrops on behalf of United Nations agencies. Earmarked funding is, however, urgently needed to continue the operation.

23. Life-saving medicines and medical supplies from humanitarian aid convoys continued to be removed in October (see table 4). Life-saving and life-sustaining medical items sufficient for 45,346 treatments were removed from inter-agency convoys to Dar al-Kabirah (Homs governorate), Duma (Rif Dimasqh governorate), Hulah (Homs governorate), Mu'addamiyah (Rif Dimasqh governorate) and Wa'r (Homs governorate).

Table 4
Medical supplies removed from convoys, October 2016

<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of treatments</i>	<i>Type of supplies</i>
Dar al-Kabirah	8 016	Multivitamins, pneumonia kit B, antiseptics, intravenous fluids
Duma	16 670 ^a	Burn kits, equipment for haemodialysis sessions for adults, ventilators, defibrillators, sterilizers, X-ray machines
Mu'addamiyah	17 559 ^b	Pneumonia kits A and B, burn kits, water kits, monitoring devices, basic X-ray machines
Hulah	3 101	Pneumonia kits A and B, antiseptics and intravenous fluids, in addition to general equipment and medical supplies from general practice kits

^a The quantities of several medicines, such as intravenous fluids, antihypertension medication and medical consumables, were reduced.

^b The quantities of several medicines, such as antiseptics and inter-agency emergency health kit basic/supplementary units, were reduced.

24. Under the United Nations inter-agency convoy plan for October, access was requested to 29 locations, including all besieged locations, with the aim of reaching 962,800 people. In their response, due around 29 or 30 September pursuant to the agreement to respond within seven working days, but received on 7 October, the Syrian authorities approved access to 609,450 beneficiaries (63.3 per cent), while 353,350 beneficiaries (36.7 per cent) were rejected or not included in the approved number of beneficiaries. The authorities also requested that four other locations should be reached in October outside the plan.

25. On 18 October, the United Nations submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the inter-agency convoy plan for November, which comprised 18 requests to reach 904,500 people in need in 25 besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line areas. A response was received on 27 October, in line with the agreed review period. In total, 623,000 beneficiaries (69 per cent) were approved, while 281,500 beneficiaries (31 per cent) were rejected or not included in the approved number of beneficiaries. Of the 25 requested locations, 8 were approved in full (32 per cent), 15 were approved with a lower number of beneficiaries (60 per cent) and 2 (8 per cent), including eastern Aleppo, were denied. The authorities also requested that 20 other locations should be reached in November outside the plan.

26. The Nusaybin/Qamishli crossing in Hasakah governorate has been temporarily closed by the Turkish authorities because of security concerns since 27 December 2015. The governorate also remains largely inaccessible by road for United Nations agencies from within the Syrian Arab Republic owing to insecurity and the presence of ISIL members along the routes. On 9 July, the United Nations began airlifts from Damascus to Qamishli airport to deliver multisectoral assistance for a targeted 175,000 people in the governorate.

Humanitarian response

27. In October, United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners continued to reach millions of people in need through all modalities from within the Syrian Arab Republic and across borders (see table 5). Non-governmental organizations also continued to deliver assistance to people in need in line with previous months. The Government continued to provide basic services to those areas under its control and in many areas beyond its control.

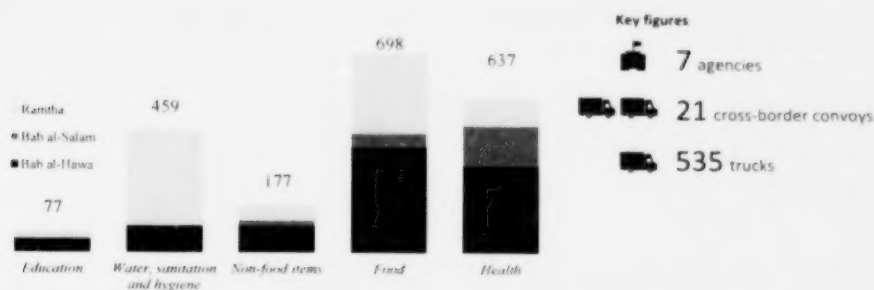
Table 5
People reached by United Nations organizations, October 2016

<i>Organization</i>	<i>People reached</i>
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	43 550
International Organization for Migration	87 059
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	710 891
United Nations Children's Fund	2 900 000
United Nations Development Programme	1 071 582
United Nations Population Fund	297 500
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	450 000
World Food Programme	4 128 974
World Health Organization	1 172 919

28. Cross-border deliveries continued from Turkey and Jordan into the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015) (see fig. III). In line with those resolutions, the United Nations notified the Syrian authorities in advance of each shipment, including its content, destination and number of beneficiaries. The United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic continued its operations, monitoring 535 trucks used in 21 convoys in October, confirming the humanitarian nature of each and notifying the Syrian authorities after each shipment. The Mechanism continued to benefit from excellent cooperation with the Governments of Jordan and Turkey.

Figure III
Beneficiaries assisted by the United Nations and its partners per cluster
through cross-border deliveries, October 2016

(Thousands)



29. The inter-agency convoys to the besieged and hard-to-reach locations listed in table 6 were completed in October. Moreover, since 10 April, the United Nations has completed 146 airdrops of food commodities and humanitarian assistance over the city of Dayr al-Zawr. In addition, the logistics cluster continued airlifts to Qamishli from Damascus, with more than 150 airlift rotations having been completed since 9 July. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies also undertook single-agency deliveries to cross-line and hard-to-reach locations or reached those locations through their regular programmes.

Table 6
Inter-agency cross-line convoys, October 2016

Date	Location	Requested target (number of beneficiaries)	Targeted people reached
19 October	Duma	143 000	35 000
20 October	Dar al-Kabirah	37 750	33 500
23 October	Mu'addamiyah	45 000	35 000
24 October	Hulah	71 000	71 000
25 October	Wa'r	75 000	70 000
29 October	Eastern Harasta	21 000	11 000
31 October	Qadsayya	42 000	30 000

Note: All assistance provided was multisectoral in nature.

30. In October, the second "national polio immunization days" were implemented by the Syrian authorities with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization and their partners. Of the planned target of 2,814,119 children under 5 years of age in 12 governorates, 2,264,472 (94.7 per cent) had been vaccinated by the end of the month. In 32 hard-to-reach areas in eight governorates, the campaign was extended until 27 October to allow full reach. Moreover, as part of the second

round of the national multi-antigen campaign, 45,084 children were reached in October through cross-border interventions from Turkey.

Humanitarian response plan funding

31. The status of the funding of the humanitarian response plan as at 31 October is shown in figure IV.

Figure IV
Humanitarian response plan funding, 31 October 2016

(Millions of dollars)



Visas and registrations

32. A total of 31 new visa requests from United Nations staff members were submitted in October. A total of 36 requests were approved, comprising 10 submitted in October and 26 older applications, while 37 remain pending. Three new requests submitted in October were rejected. Moreover, a total of 42 visa renewal requests were submitted. In total, 46 requests were approved, while none were rejected. In total, 24 requests remain pending, of which 19 were submitted in October.

33. In total, 17 international non-governmental organizations are registered with the Government to operate in the country. Four more are completing registration. Those organizations continued to face administrative hurdles and restrictions that affect their ability to operate, including in gaining permission to undertake independent needs assessments. Some 188 national non-governmental organizations are authorized to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 5 added in September.

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and premises

34. In addition to the attack on 30 October by non-State armed opposition groups against the building in western Aleppo housing United Nations offices and staff, a number of attacks put the lives of humanitarian personnel at risk. For example, an inter-agency convoy to Harbinafsih subdistrict, Hama governorate, was aborted en route to the location after government-affiliated forces impeded access.

35. A total of 28 United Nations staff members (26 from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 1 from the United Nations Development Programme and 1 from UNICEF), are still detained or missing. Since the beginning of the conflict, dozens of humanitarian workers have been killed, including 18 staff members of the United Nations, 54 staff members and volunteers of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and 8 staff members and volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In addition, many staff members of international and national non-governmental organizations are reported to have been killed.

III. Observations

36. The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Horrific attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure continue unabated. Schools, hospitals and basic services have been mercilessly pummelled. Violations of the most basic tenets of international human rights and humanitarian law are rife. The senseless killing on 26 October of scores of children in a school complex in Has, Idlib governorate, is just one of the many tragic reminders that Syrians are being robbed of their future by this conflict and those fuelling it. If such horrific acts and tactics persist despite global outrage, it is largely because their authors, whether in the corridors of power or in insurgent redoubts, do not fear accountability and justice. They must be proved wrong.

37. The situation is alarming throughout the country. It is particularly grave in eastern Aleppo, where hundreds of people are in urgent need of medical evacuation and hundreds of thousands more require urgent food assistance. No United Nations assistance has entered eastern Aleppo in more than four months. Food is so scarce that many people survive on only one meal of rice a day. What little that is available on the local market is sold at vastly inflated prices. This tragedy was not inevitable, not unforeseeable and not unstoppable. While I welcome the halt in air strikes on eastern Aleppo by the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic, no short-lived unilateral pauses can change this reality. Guns from all sides must fall silent and fall silent indefinitely. Syrians are not asking for a pause in the killing of their children, but for an end to that killing. They are living under daily threat and terror, crowding into basements to seek refuge from the air strikes and volleys of shells and mortar rounds that continue to slam into what remains of their homes. Their lives have lost all meaning.

38. I have established a board of inquiry into the incident that involved a United Nations-Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief operation to Urum al-Kubra on 19 September. It began its work during the week of 24 October. I urge all parties concerned to extend their full cooperation to it. Its aim is to ascertain the facts of the incident and to report to me upon the completion of its work. I will review the

report and decide what further steps to take. While this inquiry is important, this does not mean that other incidents should not be investigated. I have repeatedly called for accountability and effective investigations into allegations of serious violations of international humanitarian law, including through a referral of the situation to the International Criminal Court.

39. In many of my reports to the Security Council I have made the point that what is most needed in the Syrian Arab Republic is an end to the violence, in Aleppo and elsewhere, and the restoration of a nationwide cessation of hostilities. I have urged those with influence to ensure full and unimpeded humanitarian access to all civilians throughout the country. I regret that in October the Council again failed to discharge its responsibilities to uphold peace and security for the Syrian Arab Republic. Ways must be found to build bridges that promote unity and concerted action. The blockages in the Council and the suspension of bilateral cooperation between the Co-Chairs of the International Syria Support Group must be overcome by a renewed push for action by the international community. The world must come together to stop the bleeding in the Syrian Arab Republic.